

St. Peter's medal
BAUS Annual meeting 2007, Glasgow
Christine Evans
'A most unconventional career'



(slide) Mr. President, ladies and gentleman. Christine Mary Evans was born on 1st May 1943 the second daughter of Ernest Evans the vicar of Hellifield, in Yorkshire, and Margaret a teacher. Christine's family originally came from the Stoke on Trent area and her paternal grandfather was a brewer which may help to explain her lifelong affinity for beer!

Aged 6 she was sent to Acton Reynald's school in Shropshire as her mother wanted to return to work and it was there that she was taken under the wing of the headmistress Miss Hammond. It was she who seemed to understand Christine's potential and fostered the intent Christine had after reading a book about Albert Schweitzer, to read medicine at University. Age 17, and having done no science at secondary school, Christine went to Edinburgh.



(slide) Christine flourished in Edinburgh and in addition to her medical studies she played lacrosse for Scotland, had blues for rowing and also played rugby.

As a fourth year student Christine did an elective in Scarborough with Alan Pollock who inspired her to think about a career in surgery. She returned to work with Alan in 1966 and, having completed her house jobs, took herself off to a self-styled unsupervised training as a medical officer to the government of Botswana (**slide**).



Returning to England in 1970 she followed a general surgical training in Scarborough and Nottingham but enjoyed a period of urological experience whilst working with Patrick Bates and Matt Gray. After failing to be appointed as a senior registrar in general surgery in 1974 Christine took Jack Hardcastles's advice that 'she needed to be better than the boys to succeed' and went on to do a period in research with Roger Blamey, graduating with an MD entitled Lymphocyte activity and flow in allograft rejection.

In 1976 a new senior registrar post was created in Nottingham and Christine was appointed to that job. Unfortunately her heart was broken whilst in this post and she decided to continue her education in Australia, decamping, in 1978, for two years to Flinders Medical Centre where she completed her urological training with Willis Marshall.



In 1979 she was appointed as consultant urologist and transplant surgeon in Liverpool but felt constrained by being a small fish in a big pond. She gave birth to Ruth, who she describes as the best thing that has happened in her life, (**slide**) in 1984 and having a nanny who was anxious about living in Liverpool, she moved to her holiday home in North Wales and was appointed as a single handed urologist in Rhyl.

Christine put Bodelwyddan on the urological map with a missionary zeal, bringing innovative techniques that were in their infancy in major teaching centres to this district general hospital. She has been a tireless teacher, widely published and deeply committed to her clinical practice. Her stupendous efforts for her local population, and towards teaching innovative practice to a much wider audience, in the urological community, led

to her department being awarded the urological team of the year, and Christine the overall hospital doctor of the year award, in 1997.



(slide) Christine maintained contact with her training in transplantation, opening a branch service for her patients in North Wales and then became heavily involved in the Transplant games being chairman in 1986, 1997 and again at the present time. She also acted as the British team doctor for this august body between 1987 and 2002, balancing this responsibility with her home and professional lives.

Christine flirted with the media in the early 1980s appearing on Richard and Judy and Kilroy and bringing contentious topics to a much wider audience. In the last decade she was commissioned to do a series called under the knife with Miss Evans which was received with cross-legged acclaim. The notorious snap, enhanced by the TV company, when she straightened a penis afflicted by Peyronie's disease rated as the ninth worst TV moment..... ever!



(slide) Her media dalliances reached a pinnacle with two appearances on the weakest link, the highlight of which was a head to head with Basil Brush. This went to a tie break as neither got any questions right!

Christine rekindled her old love affair with Africa in 1999 and under the wing of the fledgling UROLINK organisation she has made strong and durable relationships with Christopher Samkange in Zimbabwe and Mohammed Labib in Zambia as well as visiting numerous other centres on a repetitive basis. In 1998 Christine went back onto BAUS council for a second time and in 2000 she became UROLINK chairman.



(slide) Christine undertook to make an epic trip round Africa during her chairmanship. She visited, and operated in, seven countries in six weeks whilst back at home Shrini held the fort in Bodelwyddan even donating two weeks of his annual leave to Christine's cause.

Christine retired from the NHS in 2003 and, despite having a stroke in 2004, has continued to work tirelessly in the developing world, evolving new links where angels fear to tread. Only last month she returned from a trip to Erbil and Duhok in Northern Iraq where she has helped develop quite a sophisticated urological service.

Christine, never far from controversy, was the first specifically trained female consultant urologist in the UK and has been inspirational as a teacher, trainer, doctor and friend to a very wide population over many years. Her selfless contribution to the evolution of urology, manifest in her continued involvement in the developing world, has demonstrated that Christine is a worthy recipient of British urology's highest award.